

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6884
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1554

PARIS FOR MURPHY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS CD
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION: SITREP 4

SUMMARY: FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SALAL AND ARADA.
FRENCH EVACUATE CIVILIANS FROM ABECHÉ. CASUALTY ESTIMATES
VARY GREATLY. CIVILIAN DEMONSTRATION REPORTED FROM
MOUSSORO.

1. FIGHTING CONTINUES BETWEEN FROLINAT AND CHADIAN
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FORCES IN SALAL AND ARADA. YESTERDAY'S INFORMATION FROM
VP'S DIRECTOR APPEARS SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC SINCE FRENCH
MILITARY ARE STILL FIGHTING AND AROUND THE OUTPOST
OF SALAL. ACCORDING TO FRENCH SOURCES AND THE FRG
AMBASSADOR, FRENCH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PLACES A
LARGE PERCENTAGE OF GOUKOUNI FORCES IN THE VICINITY
OF SALAL. THE FRENCH THEREFORE ARE DETERMINED NOT ONLY

TO HOLD THE CITY BUT TO SMASH THE OPPOSING TROOPS.

2. ESTIMATES OF CASUALTIES VARY GREATLY WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR QUOTED AS REPORTING 110 REBELS DEAD AND FROCLINAT RADIO CLAIMING 20 FRENCH DEAD. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE REBEL LOSSES MAY BE VICINITY 100 BUT THAT FRENCH KNOWN DEAD ARE IN RANGE 4 TO 6. FRENCH WOUNDED HOWEVER ARE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER AND CHADIAN ARMY DEAD ARE ABOUT 15-20 AT SALALAND UNKNOWN AT ARADA. SEVERAL SOURCES REPORTED A CIVILIAN DEMONSTRATION AGAINST FRENCH TROOPS IN MOUSSORO RESULTED IN KILLING OF 5 CHADIANS BY NOMAD AND NATIONAL GUARD. THIS FOLLOWS BY TWO DAYS REBEL RADIO BROADCAST WHICH SAID FIGHTING HAD ACQUIRED QUOTE NEW DIMENSIONS UNQUOTE WITH ATTACK ON SALAL WHICH NOW PITTED CHADIANS AGAINST FRENCH. LOCATION OF PROTEST IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT SINCE MOUSSORO IS FORWARD BASE TO WHICH TRANSALLS ARE FERRYING TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY TRAVEL OVERLAND TO SALAL.

3. FRG AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INFORMED BY GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE TO QUAI THAT FRENCH NOW HAVE 950 TROOPS IN COUNTRY AND ARE WILLING TO PUT IN WHATEVER RESOURCES ARE NECESSARY TO WIN. HE ALSO STATES THAT HE INFORMED FRENCH BELIEVE FROLINAT FORCES HAVE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT SUFFICIENT TO DECIPHER
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FRENCH MILITARY FIELD CODED MESSAGES AND THAT THREE RADAR GUIDED MISSILES WERE FIRED AT FRENCH HIGH LEVEL RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING WHATEVER EMBASSY PARIS CAN PICK UP FROM QUAI WITH REGARD TO THIS AND OTHER HARD INFORMATION TO HELP US SELECT AMONG LOCAL RUMORS.

4. FRENCH TRANSALLS TODAY DEPARTED FOR ABECHÉ TO EVACUATE ALL FRENCH CIVILIANS. OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONARIES ALSO WERE REMOVED. ONLY KNOWN FOREIGNERS REMAINING ARE ONE SWISS AND ONE AUSTRALIAN PROTESTANT MISSIONARY AT ABECHÉ ORPHANGE, TWO FRENCH CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES WHO REFUSE TO LEAVE, AND TWO CANADIAN MISSIONARIES WHO WERE IN BILTINE. CANADIANS ARE NOW IN ABECHÉ AND PLAN TO LEAVE ON TOMORROW'S FLIGHT, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN MISSIONARY COORDINATOR IN NDJAMENA. THERE ARE NO US CITIZENS IN EASTERN CHAD.
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